

Digital Border-Crossing: Practical Advice for Digitization Projects that Transcend Borders




Central American Broadsides
Kenneth Spencer Research Library
University of Kansas
<http://lib.ku.edu/broadsides/>

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Digital Border-Crossing: Practical Advice for Digitization Projects that Transcend Borders

Browse Central American Broadside

Featured Media



Category Pages **Browse All**

This collection features broadsides from the Kenneth Spencer Research Library's William J. Griffith Collection of Guatemala and Central America. Dating from the 1820s to 1922, the broadsides are primarily Guatemalan, with a smaller number from Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Many pertain to national and local politics and include election materials, political manifestos, and government pronouncements. -- La colección consiste en volantes de la Biblioteca de investigación Kenneth Spencer pertenecientes a la colección de William J. Griffith sobre Guatemala y Centroamérica. Publicados entre 1820 y 1922, los volantes son mayormente de Guatemala, con un número menor de Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador y Nicaragua. Muchos se relacionan a la política nacional y local e incluyen material electoral, manifiestos políticos, y pronunciamientos gubernamentales.

Session Outline

- Concept and criteria
- Collaboration
- Imaging
- Metadata
- Lessons learned: collaborating across borders

<http://lib.ku.edu/broadsides/>

Philosophies and Practicalities: Picking Your Project

William J. Griffith Collection of Guatemala and Central America

William J. Griffith Collection of Guatemala and Central America

Acquired in 1982, the William J. Griffith Collection of Guatemala and Central America is the fruit of some forty years of collecting by the KU Professor Emeritus of Central American history. The collection consists of books, newspapers, broadsheets, printed ephemera and manuscripts, primarily from Guatemala and other Central American countries, with particular emphasis on the period from the late 1700s to the 1920s.

The collection is particularly strong for:

- printed ephemera (hundreds of broadsides and pamphlets)
- regional Guatemalan newspapers
- the history of education in Guatemala

Information regarding the related [Griffith Manuscript collection](#) is available in the "[Finding Manuscripts by Country](#)" portion of this guide.

SEARCH TIP:

- To browse titles in the Griffith collection, select the option "**left-anchored call number**" from the search settings in the [KU's online catalog](#), enter "**Griffith**" and then hit "search." You may then sort the results by date, title, or author.

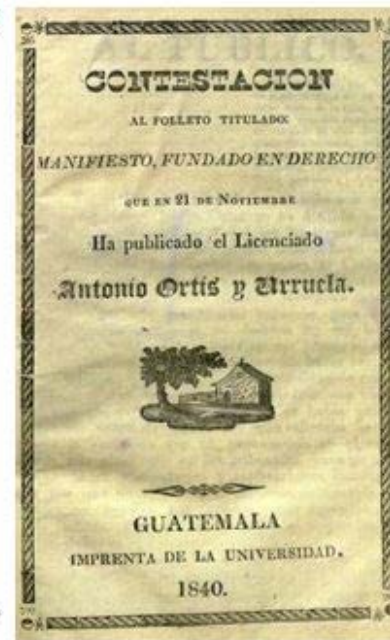
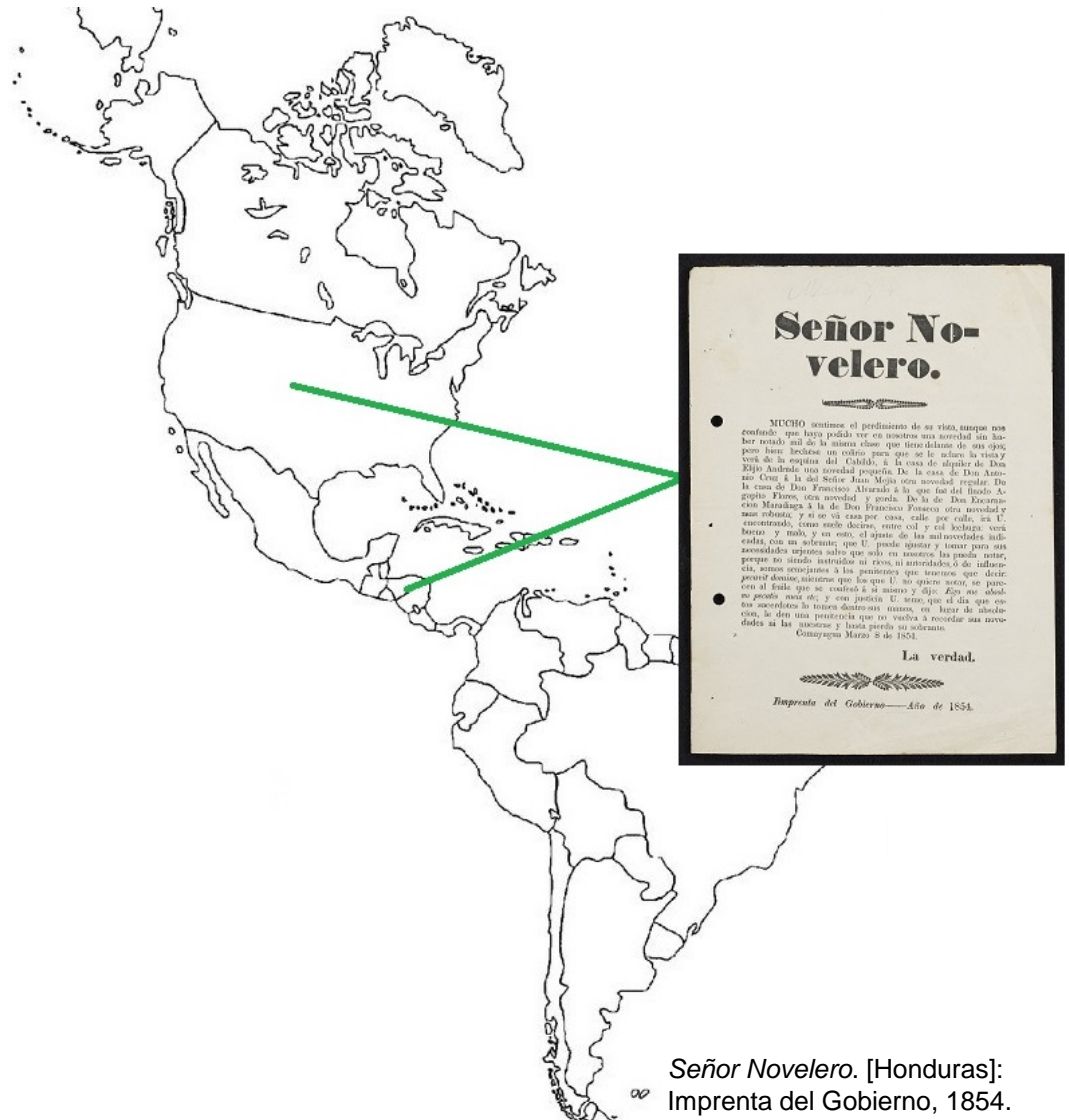


Image: *Contestacion al Folleto Titulado: Manifiesto, Fundado en Derecho, que en 21 de Noviembre Ha Publicado el Licenciado Antonio Ortiz Urruela*, Guatemala: Imprenta de la Universidad, 1840 Call Number: [Griffith B384](#)

Toward Digital Repatriation

“While some may assume on first glance that the digital object—as a surrogate—is meant to replace the physical object, no one, standard definition, nor agreed-upon terminology, characterizes the multiple practices of collecting institutions, individuals, or local community groups surrounding the return of cultural and historical materials to indigenous communities.”

Christen, Kimberly. “Opening Archives: Respectful Repatriation.” *The American Archivist*, 74, no.1 (2011): 185-210.



Señor Novelero. [Honduras]:
Imprenta del Gobierno, 1854.

Philosophies and Practicalities: **Delimiting Your Project**

Central American Broad­sides
Kenneth Spencer Research Library
University of Kansas

MANIFIESTO
A LOS PUEBLOS DE LA REPUBLICA,
— GARCÍA Y RIVERA —

<http://lib.ku.edu/broadsides/>

Selection Criteria:

- Historical significance
- Scarcity
- Preservation
- Metadata availability
- Platform-friendly
- Enhanced functionality and adding value
- Room for Growth

Selection Criteria: **Historical Significance**

- **National and International Politics:** Pronouncements by and about major political figures such as Guatemalan Presidents Mariano Rivera Paz (1804-1849), Rafael Carrera (1814-1865), Vicente Cerna (1815-1885), Justo Rufino Barrios (1835-1885), and Manuel Estrada Cabrera (1857-1924), as well as Honduran President Luis Bográn (1849-1895)



MANIFESTACION

de la Municipalidad, Cuerpo Militar y vecinos de San Francisco el Alto,

al Sr. Presidente Constitucional de la República,

Licenciado don Manuel Estrada Cabrera

Señor:

EL triunfo de la Democracia es patente: así lo dice hoy el júbilo nacional que celebra con vitores y aclamaciones de positivo entusiasmo, la toma de posesión de la primera Magistratura del país por Vos, en el tercer período de nuestra Administración tan gloriosa ya en los anales de nuestra Historia Nacional.

EL PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA,

Considerando: que según avisos fidedignos, recibidos de Nueva York, el ex-Presidente Don Marco Aurelio Soto ha organizado una nueva expedición filibustera, con el objeto de hostilizar á Honduras y su Gobierno, y que dichos avisos están confirmados con la llegada á Belice del vapor "City of Mexico," en que, según informes del Cónsul Hondureño residente en aquel establecimiento, al registrar las autoridades inglesas el expresado vapor, por conceptuarle sospechoso, se reconocieron en él varios aventureros de los que han formado y forman el séquito del aludido ex-Presidente.

Considerando: que el vapor que conduce á los expedicionarios se dirigió de Belice para Bluefield, en donde, según revelaciones de los mismos, esperan elementos de guerra que los llevará el vapor "Andes," que toca, al hacer su tráfico, en varios puntos de la costa del Norte.

Considerando: que para el caso en que se verifique la invasión política proyectada, se hace necesario que el Gobierno esté investido de un poder más extenso y eficaz que el de que goza en circunstancias ordinarias, á fin de atender por todos los medios que sean convenientes al mantenimiento del orden y á la defensa del país, amagado por aventureros sin conciencia y sin ley, que no tienen más objeto que el de restaurar en el Poder de Honduras al mencionado ex-Presidente, para que continúe el despotismo, el terror y las depredaciones de que todos han sido testigos; en uso de las facultades de que está investido,

DECRETA:

Artículo único.—Se declara la República en estado de sitio, quedando en consecuencia suspenso el Imperio de la Constitución. Los Tribunales ordinarios continuarán funcionando mientras el Jefe de la Nación no disponga otra cosa.

Dado en Tegucigalpa, á 17 de Enero de 1886.

LUIS BOGRAN,

El Secretario de Estado en el Despacho de Relaciones Exteriores,

JERONIMO ZELAYA,

El Secretario de Estado en el Despacho de Gobernación,

CINCENCO COMAS

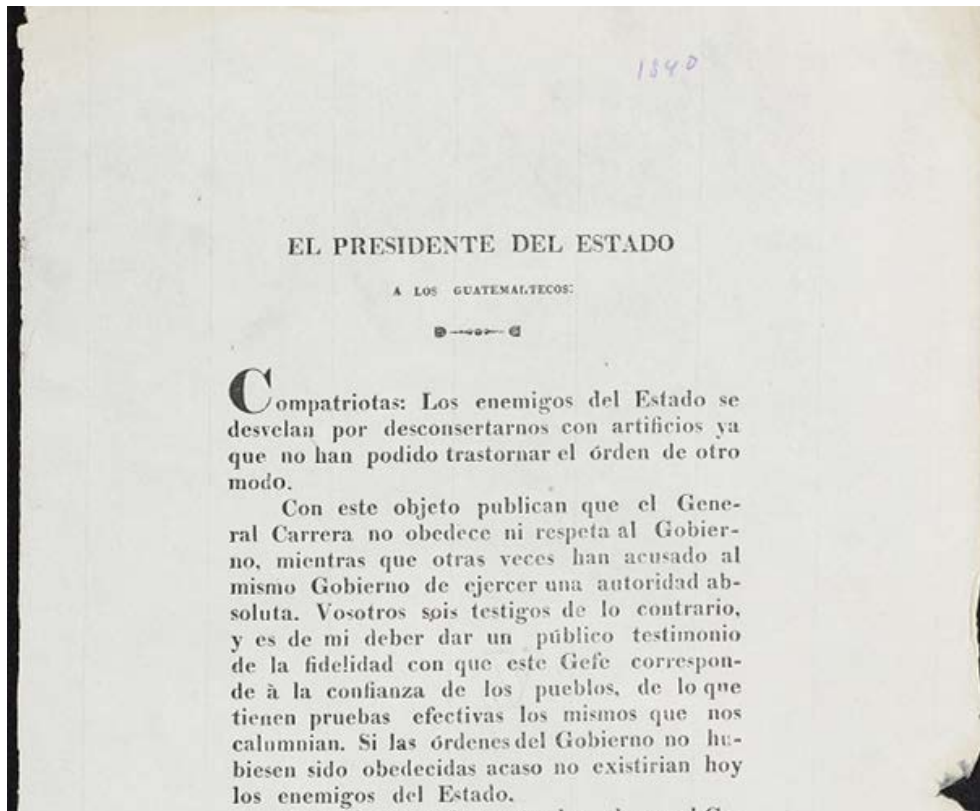
Selection Criteria: **Historical Significance**

- **Insight into Everyday Life:** mayoral politics, political clubs, theatrical productions, religious organizations



Selection Criteria: **Scarcity**

- Providing access to primary source materials not readily available elsewhere
- Associated responsibility of sharing these with their countries of origin and audiences around the globe



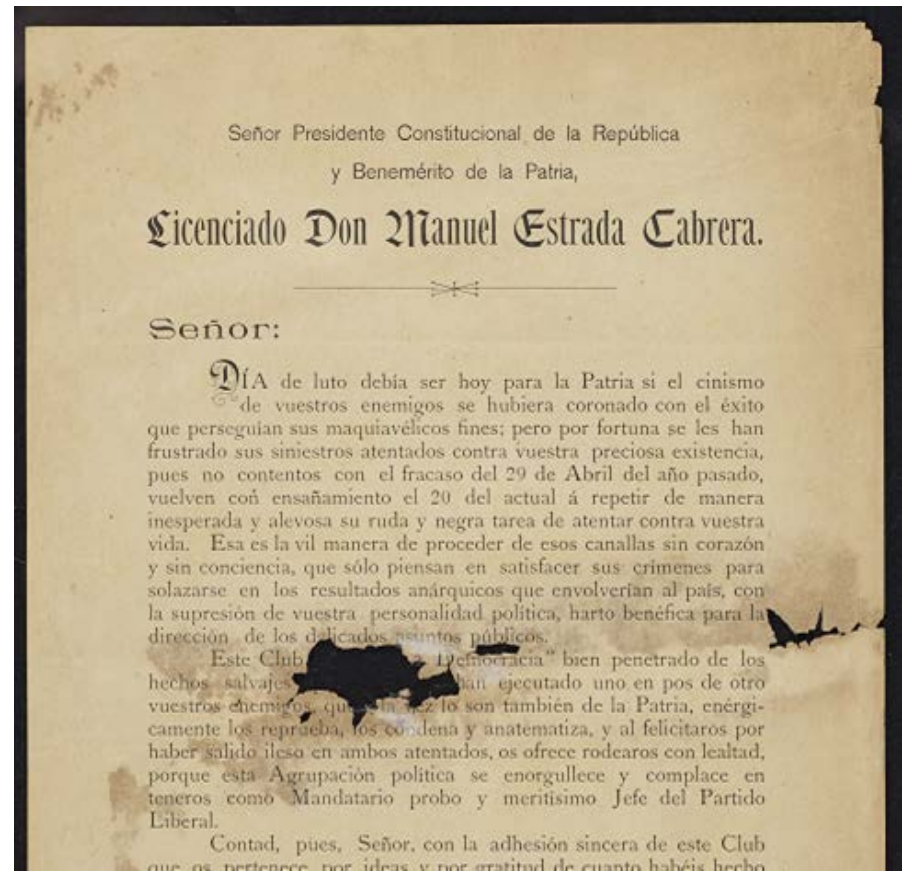
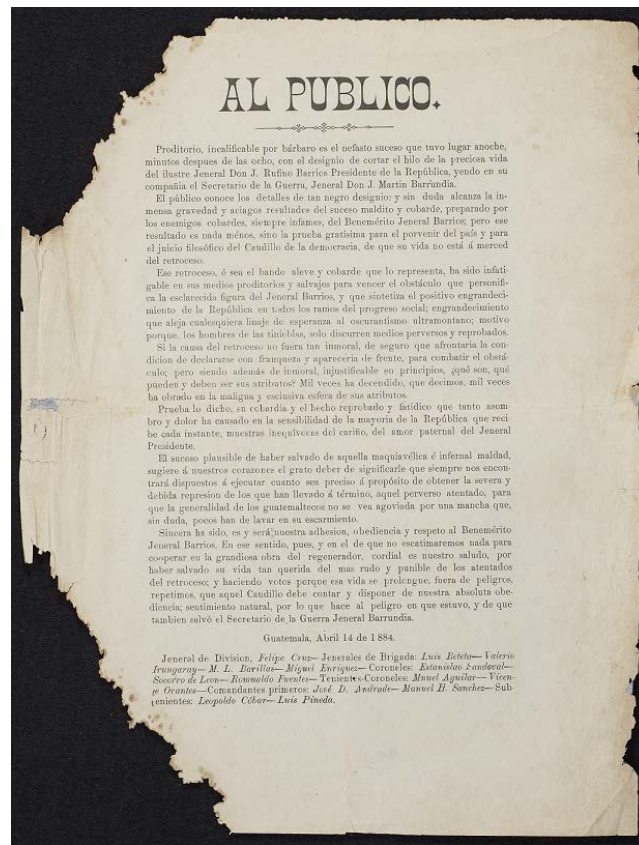
Rivera Paz, Mariano. *El Presidente del estado a los Guatemaltecos.*

[Guatemala]: no publisher, 1840. Call #: Griffith P722

KU's copy is the only holding listed in WorldCat; Not in CCILA or Metabase


Selection Criteria: Preservation

- Ensuring the persistence of the informational content of broadsides that have suffered past damage (tears, folds, water, and insect damage)
- Reducing the necessity of handling fragile materials



Selection Criteria: Metadata availability

- Item-level metadata available
- Easily exported as MARC records



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KU Library Catalog

Libraries Home	Search	Search History	View Titles	My Account	View Bookbag	Recalls & Requests	Databases	E-Journals	Other Catalogs	Help	Logout
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Full Record

A los guatemaltecos!!!

Relevance: ■■■■■■

Database: University of Kansas Libraries

Title: A los guatemaltecos!!!

Subject(s): Estrada Cabrera, Manuel, 1857-1924.
Revolutionaries --Guatemala.

Publisher: [Guatemala : s.n.], 1915.

Format: Book

Description: 1 sheet ; 29 cm.

General Notes: Signed "El Comité Revolucionario".

KU Bib ID: 7621294

System Numbers: (OCoLC)ocn797157938
(OCoLC)797157938

Stable ID for this record: <http://catalog.lib.ku.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?bbid=7621294>

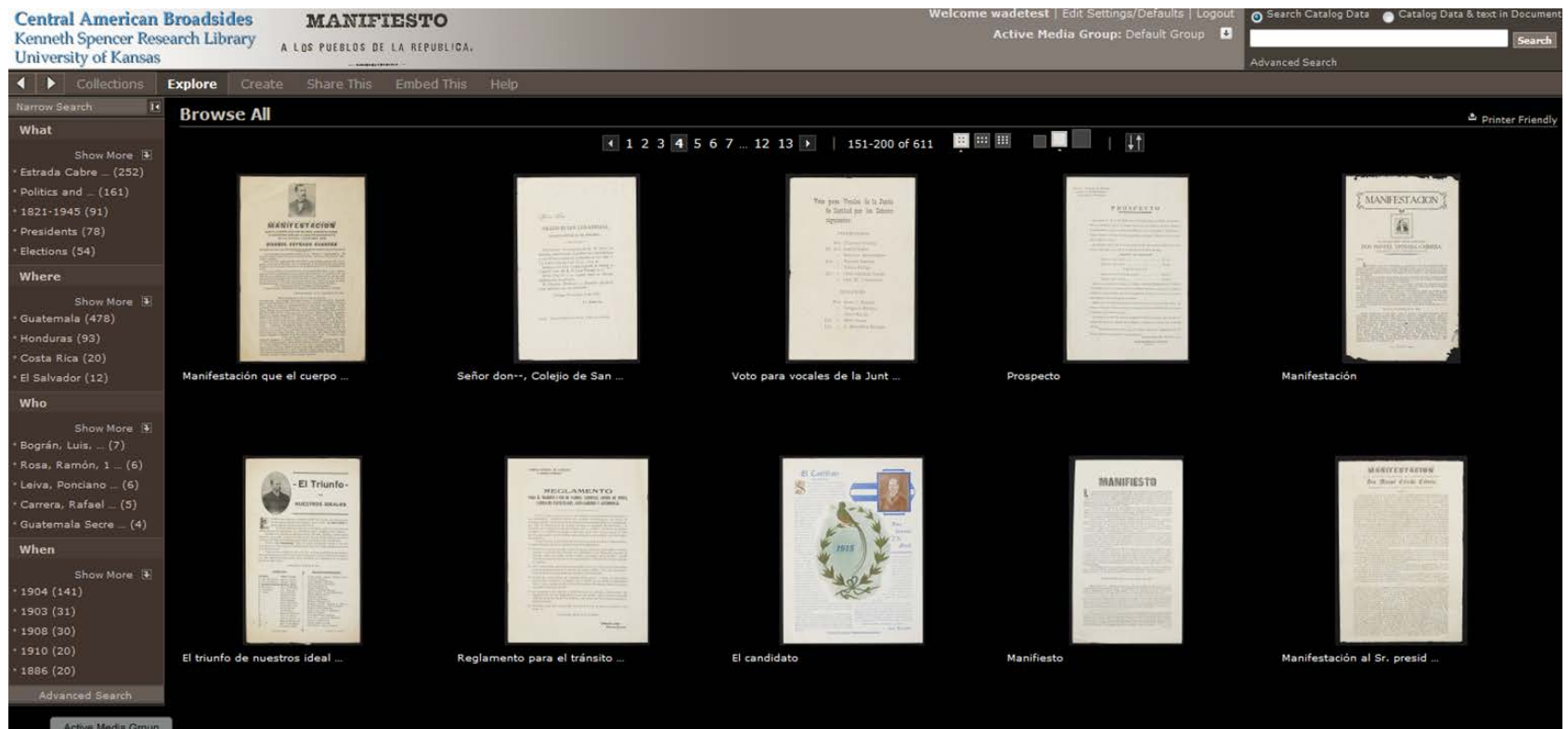
Location: Shelved At Spencer Library (Special Collections) - Get at Spencer

Call Number: Griffith P538

Status: Available

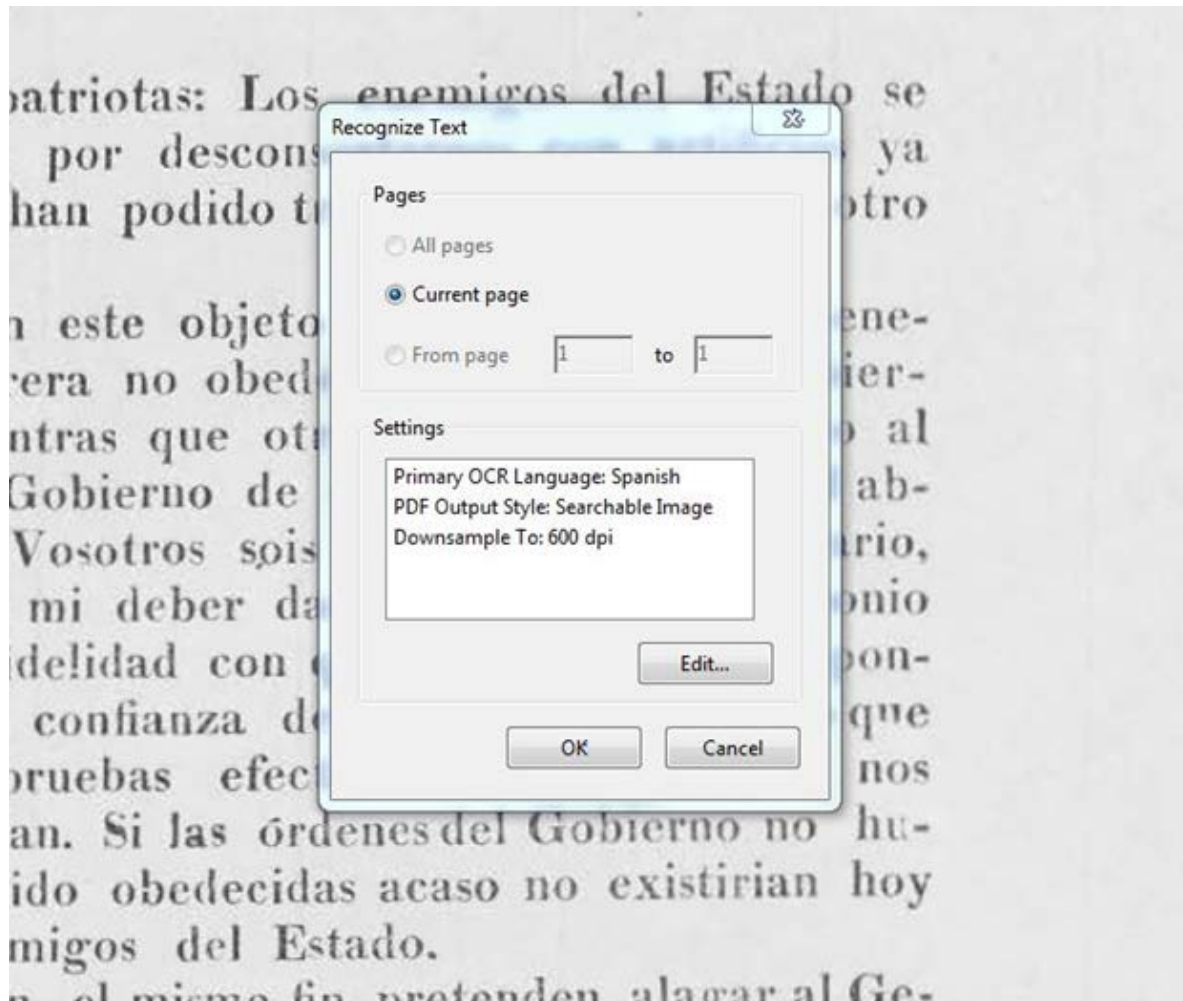
Selection Criteria: Platform-friendly

- Work with the technological constraints of your platform: broadsides can be captured as single images and therefore play well with the LUNA delivery system



Selection Criteria: Enhanced functionality and adding value

- Good candidates for OCR, which though not presented as a reading text, could be used to provide additional discoverability via full text searching*



*Reality check to follow...

Selection Criteria: Room for Growth

Possibilities for expanding the digitization project:

- Incorporate yet-to-be cataloged broadsides
- Move beyond broadsides to pamphlets and books from the same collection
- Reach out to other institutions with strong holdings in the same subject area and invite them to participate in a shared portal



XI International Book Fair of Guatemala



XI FERIA INTERNACIONAL DEL LIBRO EN GUATEMALA
VAMOS POR UN PAÍS DE LECTORES
FILGUA 2014

FILGUA: Using the book fair as a springboard for other projects

- Taking advantage of government-sponsored trips to the book fair
- Exploring the country's new publications and publishing industry
- Networking



“Returning” documents to their country of origin



Biblioteca Nacional de Guatemala
National Library of Guatemala

Visiting Guatemala's National Library



Imaging: Preparing the broadsides

- Conservation Services department inventoried the condition of the broadsides prior to digitization:
 - Already housed in oversize folders
 - Some placed in mylar sleeves
 - Insect damage about 5%
 - Inactive mold about 5%
 - Majority of treatment for brittleness, tears, creases, and tape
 - Mended with Japanese paper and wheat starch paste
 - Forewarned by Conservation staff about potential hand irritation

Imaging: Preparing the broadsides

- What if you don't have staff trained in conservation?
 - Could be an elective step if no active mold or infestation is present
 - Outsource work to NEDCC or Gerald Ford Conservation Center
 - Invest in archival folders and acid-free boxes
 - DIY humidification chamber
 - Use sheets of glass to flatten while imaging (depending on condition)
- Physical materials were identified with call number.

Imaging: Capturing the broadsides

- Equipment Used:
 - PhaseOne 645DF with P30+ digital back
 - 9' camera stand
 - 4 Buhl softcubes
- What if you don't have fancy equipment?
 - Use a flatbed scanner (like an Epson 10000XL)
 - Use a planetary scanner (like a Bookeye)
 - Camera mounted on table-top copy stand (shooting vertically)
 - Camera mounted on tripod (shooting horizontally)



Imaging: Capturing the broadsides

- File Naming
 - Need to establish consistent convention
 - Ensures that each file is unique
 - Detailed vs. numerical
 - ksrl_sc_griffith_h121_0001.tif (manual)
 - 00000001.tif (automated)
- Time Requirement
 - 1 student @ 12 hours/week X 8 weeks = 600 images

Imaging: Conducting Quality Assurance (QA)

- Essential step in the digitization workflow
- Every image vs. sampling
- Quality vs. quantity
- Professional workforce vs. student workforce
 - Expectations vary
- Problems we encountered:
 - Changing exposure/lighting
 - Inconsistent cropping
 - Camera shake
- Importance of documentation

Digitization Work Log

When



Priority (circle one):

Standard

Rush

Needed By: 4/30/15

What



Title: Broadsides

Call Number: Griffith H101-H124

Physical Description: oversize folders in 1 oversize box

Why



Project: Central American Broadsides

Imaging Instructions: Adjust camera height to fill frame, crop w/ slight border.

Prepared By: J. Wehr

How



Imaged By: Tim Churchill Date: April 21st 2015 Total Hours: 3 hours

Workstation: Phase 1 # of Images: 20 images

Path to Masters: Desktop/Broadsides/output.

DPI: 300 ISO: 100 Aperture: f8. Shutter Speed: 1/30

Mode (circle one):

Bitonal

Greyscale

RGB

Who



QA'd By: J. Wehr Date: 4/22/15 Total Hours: 1/2

QA Comments: Approved. OCR completed.

Where



Date Loaded to Digmaster: 8/13/15 gw

Imaging: Conducting OCR

- Optical Character Recognition
- Adobe Acrobat Pro XI
- Other software options include Abbyy FineReader or built-in software
- OCR in Spanish
- Success rate of approximately 80%
- Sampled approximately five words per page
- Italicized, elaborate, or handwritten text make OCR difficult
- If you have staff or volunteer hours available, consider manually transcribing instead
- Apply for grants that allow you to hire a transcriptionist

Metadata: Processing

- MARC to MODS (LC stylesheet)
- Legacy data, granularity, controlled vocabularies
- Linked data
- Cataloger identity
- Metadata staging/freezing

```
<mods:subject authority="lcsch">
  <mods:name type="corporate">
    <mods:namePart>Catholic Church</mods:namePart>
  </mods:name>
  <mods:topic>Controversial literature</mods:topic>
</mods:subject>
<mods:subject authority="lcsch">
  <mods:topic>Church and state</mods:topic>
  <mods:topic>Catholic Church</mods:topic>
</mods:subject>
```

Metadata: System

- MARC to MODS to Luna(?)
- Semantic/Structural loss
- Elements in English
- OCR
- Defining users and needs

```
<fieldGroup type="Subject">  
  <field type="Subject">González Vigil, Francisco de Paula, 1792-1875</field>  
  <field type="Subject">Defensa de la autoridad de los gobiernos y de los obispos contra  
    las pretensiones de la Curia Romana</field>  
  <field type="Subject">Catholic Church</field>  
  <field type="Subject">Controversial literature</field>  
  <field type="Subject">Church and state</field>  
  <field type="Subject">Catholic Church</field>  
</fieldGroup>
```

Lessons Learned: Collaborating across Borders

- **Embrace exploration:** start with a pilot project to discover what works and doesn't work
- **Select a project manager:** that person will help establish and communicate the workflow, timeline, and procedures
- **Take advantage of project management tools:** this will help facilitate communication and eliminate the danger of some project collaborators not knowing about changes that affect their work (e.g. reassigning of some call numbers)
- **Establish a shared consensus on project features early on:** if we had known that integrating OCR wouldn't be possible, we would have enhanced the metadata (especially subject headings) to improve searchability
- **Be flexible:** Some things *will* change so be agile and ready to adjust

Questions?



<http://lib.ku.edu/broadsides/>

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